

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated June 28, 2007, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claim 1 is hereby amended to incorporate features of claims 12 and 13; claims 2 and 12-13 are canceled; no claims are newly added. Claims 20 and 21 have previously been withdrawn per Applicants' provisional election of Group I (claims 1-19 readable thereon) in the Response to Restriction Requirement dated March 7, 2005. Accordingly, claims 1-11, 14-19 and 22-23 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 12, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,129,804 (to Gaynes et al.)(hereinafter "Gaynes") in view of Japanese Laid Open Patent Application Publication No. 2001-356353 (to Satoshi)(hereinafter "Satoshi") and U.S. Patent No. 5,263,888 (to Ishihara)(hereinafter "Ishihara"). Claims 1, 12 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0062787 A1 (to Hashizume et al.)(hereinafter "Hashizume") in view of Ishihara and (optionally) Satoshi. Claims 2-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gaynes and Satoshi and Ishihara, or Hashizume and Ishihara, with or without Satoshi, and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0043344 A1 (to Watanabe et al.)(hereinafter "Watanabe") and U.S. Patent No. 5,961,777 (to Kakinuma)(hereinafter "Kakinuma"). Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gaynes or Hashizume and further in view of Satoshi.

The rejection of claims 1-11, 14-19 and 22-23 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-11, 14-19 and 22-23 are allowable over the cited

references in that each of these claims recite a combination of elements including, for example, “a plurality of hardening stations for hardening a sealant material arranged between the bonded ones of the first and second substrates, wherein the plurality of hardening stations are arranged proximate the fourth side of the at least one unloader and wherein the at least one loader loads the bonded ones of the first and second substrates into the plurality of hardening stations.” None of the cited references including, Gaynes, Ishihara, Hashizume, Watanabe, Kakinuma or Satoshi, singly or in any combination, teach or suggest the feature of the claimed invention.

In the Detailed Action of the Office Action, claim 13 is not rejected by the Examiner. Applicant amended independent claim 1 to incorporate features of the claims 12-13. As a result, claim 1 is allowable. If the Examiner asserts that amended claim 1 and by effect previous claim 13 is not allowable, then Applicant’s respectfully request that such rejection not be made final.


Applicants believe the foregoing remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Respectfully submitted,

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